

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a wife, mother, former judge and former prosecutor to urge the Speaker to bring to the floor the debate on the issue of gun safety and gun control before Father's Day.

As women, mothers and grandmothers, our goal is to prevent any more gun-related deaths. I joined with other members of the Women's Caucus to send a letter to the Speaker prior to Mother's Day seeking him to set the debate prior to Father's Day.

Our children are killing one another with guns at an ever-increasing rate. From 1993 to 1997, the death rate by guns increased 182 percent for children. To stop the death of our children, we urge the Speaker to bring this issue to the floor for debate prior to Father's Day.

VIOLENCE BEGETS VIOLENCE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, after the terrible tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, there has been much soul-searching and hand-wringing in America's public circles and in the media about violence and our youth. It has led to the President holding a conference Monday at the White House to discuss these topics. But are we truly surprised as a Nation about the atmosphere of violence that surrounds our children when our children are taught by our society that it is all right to kill the innocent unborn?

A Nation that allows the lives of babies to be taken for convenience will breed a disrespect for all life in our children. But where is the discussion about the effects of abortion on our society? I did not hear from the White House yesterday, and I have not heard it from one talk show that discussed this matter.

If we ignore the violence of abortion as a society, who really has the trouble of discerning fantasy from reality, our children or the adults in this Nation?

TAXPAYERS ARE STILL TAXED OFF

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, we have taxes on income, death, gifts, investment, fuel and energy, capital gains. We have excise taxes, surtaxes, retroactive taxes, old taxes, new taxes. Unbelievable. Is it any wonder the American people are taxed off?

I say today, tax this. It is time to abolish the IRS, abolish income taxes and pass the National Retail Sales Tax Plan. It is time to reward work and savings for a change. Think about that.

I yield back what freedom and liberty we have left as taxpayers.

TAX FREEDOM DAY 1980-1999

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, in line with what the previous speaker had to say, the chart here is labeled "Tax Freedom Day 1980-1999." But maybe a better title for this chart would be "President Clinton's Road to the 21st Century."

He was elected in 1992. In 1993, Tax Freedom Day was April 30. Tax Freedom Day is the day when the average taxpayer has finished off paying what he owes to Uncle Sam and begins to work for himself.

In 1994, Tax Freedom Day was May 2. In 1995, it was May 3. In 1996, it was May 5. In 1997, it was May 7. Last year, it was May 10. This year, yesterday, May 11 was the day when taxpayers begin working for themselves.

This is the road to the 21st century under a Democrat administration. Ronald Reagan was able to push back Tax Freedom Day from May 4 to April 27. But since then we have lost ground.

It is considered progress to the tax and spenders in this body; but for middle-class taxpayers, it just means less freedom and more power in Washington.

GUN SAFETY

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, Mother's Day just passed, a day for celebration for some and, unfortunately, a day of mourning for too many women who no longer have a child to call them mother.

In Indianapolis, a young mother named Michelle Miller mourned her young son who was killed while playing with a loaded firearm.

In Littleton, Colorado, 12 mothers mourned their children, killed by two teens who found access to deadly firepower all too easy.

We have a number of good proposals pending before this 106th Congress on gun safety. I have a common-sense bill, H.R. 515, that has already been joined with 49 cosponsors, that will require child safety devices on handguns and establish standards for those devices.

We can move now to enact common-sense gun regulations that does not violate anybody's constitutional rights to bear arms but does protect the lives of a lot of innocents.

Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate Father's Day in a more profound way, by passing gun safety legislation.

NATIONAL SECURITY EMERGENCY CREATED BY CUTTING DEFENSE BUDGET

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has created a national security emergency by cutting the defense budget while spreading our troops all around the world.

Between 1960 and 1991, the Army conducted 10 operational events. In the past 8 years, the Army has conducted an astonishing 26 operational events. Strangely enough, this increased activity has occurred during a period in which our military has been shrunk by 40 percent.

This misguided policy is playing itself out in Yugoslavia. Already the President has had to call up thousands of reserves and divert planes from the strategically important Iraqi No-Fly Zone to carry out strikes on Milosovic's regime.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to replenish our national defense which has been substantially weakened by the Clinton administration. The Republican majority stands ready to provide the resources to address the problems related to troop morale and readiness. I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in this effort.

DEMONSTRATE PEACE WITH 72-HOUR CEASE-FIRE IN KOSOVO

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I am as concerned as we all are about what is going on in Kosovo. This conflict bothers me more than the Persian Gulf, Haiti, Bosnia and many of the crises that we have had.

I think it is time for us to have a 72-hour cease-fire. Let us let the Russians try to work out a peace settlement. I support the mission. I support our troops. I support NATO. I have seen firsthand the hostility, the destruction of lives and the destruction of property in my visits to Bosnia and Macedonia. I know the ethnic Albanians have suffered greatly. I want them to have the opportunity to go home.

I realize the United States now is the only superpower. But the United States and NATO need to show some real courage, some humility, and do what the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH) has done. He showed real leadership by going to Belgrade and demonstrating to the world that we want peace. The best way to demonstrate peace is to have a 72-hour cease-fire, and let us do it now.